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STUART T. PYLE

Phone or FAX (805) 873-9225

CONSULTANT- WATER RESOURCES3707 Panorama Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93306

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Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California, 95814

Subject: (File STPCLED 007) Comments on 10 Alternatives

Dear Lester:

Here are some comments on the core actions and the formulation of the final alternatives following Workshop 6 on April 15, 1996.

Core Actions and Essential Elements

I recognize that you are receiving comments on the core actions and other items to be more specific and to provide more detail. In looking at the detail that has been added to the core actions in the April draft summary it appears that the numbers indicate that more detailed analysis has been made of these items than was indicated at the Workshop. The need at this time is to keep the project definition at a programmatic level for the EIR/EIS process since it needs to cover a broad range of potential actions. My suggestion is that the Core Action summary table be given three columns---Activities - Objective or Proposed Accomplishment - Benefits. Proposing a size or other quality should remove from the description the appearance of having made more final decisions on the actions.

Regarding the "essential elements", the treatment of these is not at all what I would expect. By putting them into Stage II, they appear to be secondary core actions. I think a better concept would be to have the essential elements formulated as the initial set of core actions to be implemented in Stage I. These could be delineated in more detail than the remainder of the "programmatic" core actions that remain to be detailed out after the programs get underway. The experts probably have some ideas of what should be the first wave of habitat and ecosystem projects that should be done and can provide the technical detail in the EIR/EIS process.

Some of the programmatic questions that need to be answered include:

- What agencies will have jurisdiction for planning the actions,
- How will habitat and ecosystem restoration proposals be approved,
- What are the goals, proposed objectives and expected benefits of the proposed actions,
- How are actions to be prioritized to fit scientific criteria, funding availability and regional distribution of the programs,
- What will be annual and long term funding needs and proposed sources,
- How to structure monitoring and adaptive management review to insure that the programs are meeting the needs of local and regional habitat and ecosystem management.

Mr. Lester Snow
Re Workshop 6
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Formulation of Final Alternatives

I commented during Workshop 6 that the CALFED team should look at radical restructuring of the alternatives and not be bound only to making adjustments to the alternatives as now structured. Most of the 10 alternatives received no support in the break-out session when asked to respond to whether they meet the solution principles. This was not a popularity contest. The best support in our Blue group was six out of about 22 for Alternative C. Some got no votes. The reason for this is that the alternatives do not give balanced treatment of the four major objectives, and thus, can not measure up to the solution principles.

Here is another approach.

Base the structure of the alternatives on four solutions for Delta water flow and aquatic habitat conditions (i.e., to "fix the Delta"). Start with:

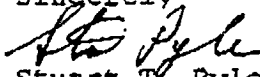
1. Through Delta
2. Large Eastside Conveyance
3. Dual Conveyance
4. No Action

Each of these should be combined with balanced actions to meet the major objectives and analyzed through a range of sizes for these elements:

- New Storage (Upstream, In-Delta, and Downstream)
- Ecosystem/Habitat Restoration
- Demand Management
- Water Supply Improvement
- Levee System Vulnerability

I think this would provide a better way to meet the needs for each of the major objectives in a way that would get agreement from the interested parties and lead to selection of a "fix the Delta" plan. As you know I would be glad to discuss this in more detail.

Sincerely,


Stuart T. Pyle